ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present invention provides an antiproliferative compound having a structural formula

$$R^3$$
 R^4
 Y
 CH_3
 R^5

5

10

15

where X and Y independently are oxygen, nitrogen or sulfur; R¹ is alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aryl, heteroaryl, carboxylic acid, carboxylate, carboxamide, thiolacid, ester, thioamide, thiolester. saccharide, alkoxy-linked saccharide, amine, sulfonate, sulfate. phosphate, alcohol, ethers or nitriles; R2 and R3 are hydrogen or R4; R4 benzyl carboxylic methyl. acid, benzyl carboxylate, carboxamide, benzylester, saccharide or amine; and R5 is alkenyl; where when Y is nitrogen, said nitrogen is substituted with R⁶, wherein R⁶ is hydrogen or methyl. Also provided are methods for treating a cell proliferative disease and for inducing apoptosis in a cell comprising administering this compound is also provided.